



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

January 24, 2005

News Release

ICE'S ELIZABETH DETENTION CENTER ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION *National standards program awards 96.6 percent passing score to facility*

Elizabeth, N.J. – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility here has earned accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA) with a 96.6 percent passing score. The Corrections Corporation of America operates the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility on behalf of ICE.

To be accredited by the association, facilities must earn a 90 percent passing score through audit of 35 mandatory standards and 386 recommended non-mandatory standards that conform to ACA professional practices.

“I am very pleased with the ACA accreditation and I appreciate the dedication and diligence of the entire staff, who worked so hard to ensure the highest possible detention standards,” said Timothy Perry, Deputy Assistant Director for ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). “Achieving high marks for detention standards is another important part of a larger effort to restore integrity to our immigration system. This recognition shows that we are committed to providing detainees, our staff and the community with a safe and healthy facility that exceeds widely accepted standards.”

The accreditation program is a professional peer review process based on national standards that have evolved since the founding of the ACA in 1870. These standards were developed by leaders in the field of corrections and include experts in law, architecture and health care groups interested in sound correctional management.

ACA accreditation addresses services, programs and operations essential to effective correctional management. Through accreditation, an agency is able to maintain a balance between protecting the public and providing an environment that safeguards the life, health and safety of staff and detainees. Standards set by the ACA reflect practical up-to-date policies and procedures and function as a management tool for agencies and facilities throughout the world.

The three-year accreditation award granted to the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility does not signal the end of the staff's intent to improve. During the award period, the staff will work to improve upon any areas that may have detracted from a greater audit score. They will also maintain continuous compliance with the standards.

The facility operates under ICE detention standards that were jointly drafted with the American Bar Association. Additionally, ICE detention facilities are subject to regular visits by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

In the 2004 Fiscal Year, which ended on September 30, ICE detained 235,347 aliens nationwide and held approximately 20,000 aliens in custody per day. In New Jersey, ICE detained approximately 700 aliens per day; 60 percent of those were criminal aliens. At the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility, ICE detains approximately 245 aliens each day.

The Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility is the latest DRO facility in recent weeks to receive ACA accreditation. The others include the Port Isabel, Texas, Service Processing Center; The Krome (Miami), Florida, Service Processing Center; and the ICE-operated health services unit within the San Diego, California, Contract Detention Facility.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.